

# PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS

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## Davis signs Simitian's bills

A pair of bills penned by state Assemblyman Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, wound up in two packages of legislation Gov. Gray Davis signed this week.



SIMITIAN

The first package of bills Davis signed Thursday was created to advance victims' rights, fight gang violence and help law enforcement operations in a variety of areas.

Among them was Simitian's Assembly Bill 49, which expands the

goals of the High Technology Crime Advisory Committee to include strategic planning for the apprehension and prosecution of people involved in a broad range of high technology crimes.

The bill also creates the California High Technology Crimes Task Force, which will examine threats to California's critical high technology and utility structures.

Davis on Thursday also signed a package of environmental legislation that will, among other things, incorporate the teaching of standard environmental principles into California school classrooms.

Among the bills was Simitian's AB 1330, which establishes the Outdoor Environmental Education Program for at-risk youth and underserved demographic groups.

It also requires the state Department of Education to contract with an independent evaluator to evaluate the programs on the academic and behavioral impact of environmental education programs on the underserved.

The bill will only be implemented, however, if the Department of Finance Determines that sufficient private donations are available to fund the program.